



**SINGLES MAIN DRAW DOWN TO LAST 8; DOUBLES READY TO DECIDE FINALISTS**  
**Only 2 seeded singles players remaining**

**SUMTER, SC May 22, 2014** – And then there were eight. What started at well over 100 players in qualifying last Saturday has whittled down to just eight in the Singles Main Draw at the Palmetto Pro Open – a USTA \$10,000 Women’s Pro Circuit event. And the Doubles Main Draw is down to the semifinals to see which two teams play on Championship Sunday.

All but one of the top eight seeds made into the second round of the Singles Main Draw, but after Thursday there are only two seeds left – No. 3 **Brooke Austin** (USA) and No. 4 **Caitlin Whoriskey** (USA). **Austin** made quick work of **Yolimar Ogando** (PUR) in a 6-3, 6-0 victory, while **Whoriskey** downed **Steffi Carruthers** (SAM) 6-4, 7-5.

Top-seed **Elise Mertens** (BEL) cruised in Wednesday night’s Feature Match, but on Thursday against **Nadja Gilchrist** (USA) she was upset with a 6-4, 6-2 loss. For Gilchrist, a qualifier, she admitted to a case of the nerves before the match.

“It was exciting,” said Gilchrist, who played her college tennis at the University of Georgia and now trains in Hilton Head, SC. “To be honest, I was really kind of nervous. When I came and watched her hit (at Wednesday’s Feature Match), I was like, ‘Wow. She’s a really good player.’

After all, her lone goal – she said – was to just get into the Main Draw.

“It was exciting to get through qualifying,” said Gilchrist. “Getting in all those matches, I got some groove in, some rhythm.

“All I wanted to do was get to the Main Draw – that’s all I was focusing on,” she added. “People were like ‘Try to get a point (towards her ranking by winning the first round in the Singles Main Draw).’ All I want to do is get to the Main Draw and then go from there.”

Turns out, ‘there’ is the quarterfinals. Or further.

No. 2 seed **Sonja Molnar** (CAN) was upset by **Anne-Liz Jeukeng** (USA) 6-3, 6-2; **Josie Kuhlman** (USA) upset fifth-seed **Angelina Gabueva** (RUS) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; No. 6 **Liudmila Vasilyeva** (RUS) fell to **Kateryna Yergina** (UKR) in an epic near-four-hour long match 4-6, 7-6(7), 7-6(6); and eighth-seed **Anamika Bhargava** (USA) was upset by qualifier **Kristina N. Smith** (USA) 6-4, 6-3.

Rounding out the quarterfinals was **Petra Januskova** (CAN), who beat **Sophie Chang** (USA) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on Stadium Court.

In Doubles action, the teams of **Januskova/Vasilyeva**, **Lauren Albanese** (USA)/**Gabueva**, **Molnar/Whoriskey** and **Chang/Andie K. Daniell** (USA) OR **Bhargava/Mertens** will compete on Friday for a chance in the Doubles Finals on Sunday.

The third-seeded duo of **Januskova/Vasilyeva** defeated **Austin/Kuhlman** 6-1, 4-6, 10-7; **Lauren Albanese** (USA)/**Gabueva** teamed up to beat **Stephanie Kent** (USA)/**Lynn Kiro** (RSA) 6-4, 7-6, 10-7; No. 1 seed **Molnar/Whoriskey** were 6-2, 6-4 winners over **Elizaveta Ianchuk** (UKR)/**Anita Safronenka** (BLR); and **Chang/Andie K. Daniell** (USA) upset No. 2 seed **Bhargava/Mertens** 6-4, 6-4.

Two courts will be used tomorrow and the four Singles Main Draw quarterfinal matches will be played first. After those are complete, the Doubles Main Draw semifinals will take place.

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